Death Valley Natural History Association

50th Anniversary

1954 - 2004

The Death Valley Natural History Association aids and promotes the historic, scientific, and educational activities of Death Valley National Park. As a nonprofit association authorized by Congress to cooperate with the National Park service, it provides interpretive material to the park visitors by sale or free distribution. It also supports research, interpretation, and conservation programs.

by
Esy Fields with Shirley Harding

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1989 Harry Tucker
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1992 Perry Deters
1993 Galen Hicks
1994 Lee Crosby
1995 Mike Nunn
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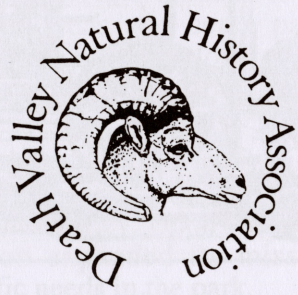
1999 Ray Sisson
2000 Edie Pool
2001 Sue Conn
2002 Ken Graydon
2003 Phee Sherline Graydon

*Deceased

†Died during term of office

Death Valley Natural History Association



50th Anniversary

1954 - 2004

by

Esy Fields with Shirley Harding

KEEPSAKE No. 44

55th Encampment
November 11-14, 2004

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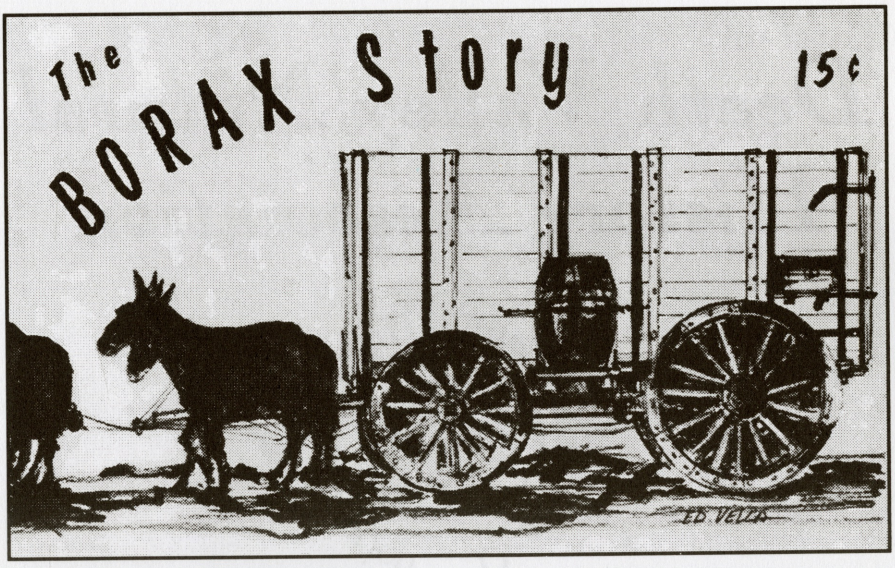
Death Valley, California



The Death Valley Natural History Association began its publishing program about 1957 with *The Borax Story,* a six-page booklet that explained the history of borax and guided visitors to the sites and relics of borax days.

Death Valley Natural History Association,
a cooperative partner with Death Valley National Park,
honors the Park on its 10th Anniversary.
1994 – 2004

The authors: Esy Fields guided the development of the Natural History Association from 1987–1989, 1992–1996, and 2002–2003 as its Executive Director after working several years in the book store at Scotty's Castle and serving as a board member. She now serves on the Board of Directors for the Shoshone Museum and is a Death Valley '49er advisor.

Shirley Harding has worked in Death Valley for 22 years and served as the NPS librarian and curator from 1978 To 1992. She still serves as a NPS curatorial volunteer and is the President of the Death Valley '49ers this year. She also serves on the Shoshone Museum Board of Directors and as a Director for the Amargosa Land Trust.

Acknowledgements: Material on cooperative associations in the National Parks comes from National Park Service Directors Order 32 and Reference Manual 32. Information about the San Jose Outdoor Education Program is from "When Field Studies in Natural History Goes to Death Valley." by Dwight Bentel. In: Proceedings: Third Death Valley Conference on History & Prehistory. Death Valley Natural History Association, Death Valley, CA. 1992. pp. 158-173.

Background on Cooperative Associations in the National Park Service

Cooperative associations share a rich history with the National Park Service that began soon after creation of the Service in 1916.

Beginning in the 1920s, Park Service naturalists and historians created partnerships with private citizens to form non-profit organizations to assist park areas and serve park visitors. From the beginning, these nonprofit organizations supported programs and projects that were not readily achievable through the use of federal funds and personnel.

The first of these cooperating organizations was the Yosemite Museum Association established in 1923 to lead a fund-raising effort for a museum in Yosemite Valley. Upon successful completion of that project the Association expanded its mission to support other educational and scientific needs in the park.

Unknowingly, the founders of the Yosemite Association established a precedent-setting partnership—one that would be emulated throughout the country as other Park Service managers recognized the potential benefits of working with private-sector partners to support museums, libraries, exhibits, publications, and other aspects of the interpretive, educational, and scientific research programs in National Parks.

By 1936, with nearly a dozen associations in operation, the Department of the Interior noted in the Secretary of the Interior's Annual Report:

> In most major parks a natural history or museum and library association has grown up as a helpful organization able to finance and promote the educational and research programs in ways not open to a Government operation. Legal status for such non-profit organizations has now been procured and their positions materially strengthened, making possible additional programs of this type.

These organizations were already legal entities under state law. Federal recognition of their legal status was contained in the Interior Department Appropriation Act of FY-37, which stated:

> Appropriations made for the national parks, national monuments, and other reservations under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service shall be available for the services of field

> employees in cooperation with such nonprofit scientific and historical societies engaged in educational work in the various parks and monuments as the Secretary in his discretion, may designate.

This important provision gave Park Service field employees, who in essence ran associations in those years, the legal authority to perform work for associations as part of their official duties. Typically, the park naturalist or park historian served as an association executive secretary with direct responsibility for supervision and performance of association activities. In many instances, the executive secretary and other Park Service employees also served on association boards, a practice that is no longer permitted.

Today, the mission of the National Park Service is: to preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

There are now 388 units in the National Park System covering about 3.6 percent of the United States and encompassing 84.4 million acres. The largest park in the contiguous 48 states is Death Valley National Park covering 3.3 million acres.

Through the 1930s and 1940s, the number of associations increased to seventeen. Most served natural resource sites in the western United States. In 1947, Eastern National Parks and Monuments Association (now Eastern National), was established to partner with a number of small parks and historic sites along the eastern seaboard. This organization represented the concept of sharing resources to benefit small sites unable to sustain their own associations and of helping the National Park Service as a whole.

The collective results of cooperating associations have had a profoundly beneficial influence on the Park Service and its visitors. Reports compiled over the years highlight the remarkable increase in association revenues and the financial aid that associations donate to the Park Service. In 1951, for example, total revenue from all Service-wide associations was just over $187,000, and aid to the Park Service was about $18,000. By 1971, revenue had grown to more that $3,700,000 with aid totaling over $500,000. In 2002, the 65 associations reported total revenue of more than $112,842,721 with donations to the National Park Service of over $26,463,512.

Historically, associations have focused their activities on interpretation and visitor services. Some of the more common activities include:

- ➢ Providing services to park visitors through the sale and free distribution of educational materials in a variety of print and non-print media.
- ➢ Sponsoring the development and production of materials that directly or indirectly increase the understanding and appreciation of individual parks and the Park Service.
- ➢ Supporting parks and Park Service-wide interpretive, educational, and scientific programs, including presentations and demonstrations that further public understanding and appreciation of the resources, themes, and issues of individual parks and the Park Service.
- ➢ Acquiring materials for interpretive programs and exhibits, including historical objects, library and archival materials, equipment, and related items necessary to the education and visitor service function of the Park Service.
- ➢ Supporting the design and construction of visitor centers, museums, or related interpretive exhibits.
- ➢ Participating in activities of other cooperative organizations whose goals and objectives are compatible with those of the Park Service by providing logistical support and staff leadership.

The success of associations may be attributed, in part, to their focus on interpretive education or research purposes stated above. However, associations have evolved to fulfill many additional roles appropriate to educational purposes, including conducting fund-raisers, seminars, field institutes, and site tours; operating reservation systems and visitor centers; sponsoring internships; and publishing books, guides, newsletters, brochures, and pamphlets.

In addition, many associations have formed partnerships with other federal, state, and local agencies responsible for diverse natural, historical, and cultural resources. One third of all associations cooperate with other government agencies in addition to their long-standing relationship with the National Park Service.

There is a delicate balance between the operations of associations and those of concessionaires, and associations must be careful to maintain an identity separate from that of the concessionaire.

Concessions are authorized by permits with the Park Service to operate lodging, food services, transportation, sales facilities, and other

services in the parks. They are commercial operations contracted by the Service and do not have the tax-exempted status or privileged relationship of cooperative associations. In areas where associations and concessionaires have sales operations in the same building, it is important that associations respect the contractual rights of concessionaires. Superintendents monitor the activities of associations and concessionaires to encourage cooperation and to keep potential conflicts to a minimum. When questions arise, visitor benefit is the paramount factor in seeking an answer.

The standard Cooperating Associations Agreement cites several authorizing Acts of Congress including the National Park Service Organic Act of August 25, 1916, and various subsequent acts.

National Park Service (NPS) management policies state: "Cooperating associations will be used wherever possible to facilitate the conservation education and interpretive programs. Based on a written agreement with the National Park Service, cooperating associations may produce and sell interpretive items such as publications, maps, visual aids, handcrafts, and other objects that are directly related to the understanding and interpretation of the park or the National Park System. Associations may also offer some interpretive services to augment those of the National Park Service."

Early History of Death Valley Natural History Association

Death Valley Natural History Association (DVNHA) had its roots in what is now called the Field Studies in Natural History program at San Jose State University. The emphasis was outdoor classes in areas of scenic beauty and special biological interests. These classes became one-week "campuses" for nature study under the tutelage of specialists in entomology, botany, zoology, geology and ecology. The program was intended to give teachers seeking additional education and "lay" students a better understanding of the natural world in which they live.

The field studies was created in 1931 to use the West's rich and varied natural habitat—ocean shore, mountains, redwood forests, deserts—as superb outdoor classrooms. Many of the outdoor sites were unique, and they were free.

At first no sessions were held in Death Valley because of its high summer heat. Then in 1937, spring vacation week for the public elementary and high school coincided with that of the college. A session was planned during spring break and proved so successful

that it was repeated in 1940 when school spring vacations again coincided—again with much success.

However, spring weather in Death Valley is sometimes capricious, as campers may learn to their discomfort. In 1942 students not yet caught up in the War had a chance to attend a Death Valley session. Laboring heavily, the overloaded vehicle took more than 14 hours to deliver its cargo of students and gear to a small canyon extension at the upper end of Texas Spring Campground. After surviving a tumultuous wind the first night, the students walked to Furnace Creek Ranch for help, and the Ranch offered them the use of a small airplane hanger near the airstrip.

The first post-war session in 1949 was also swept by wind. This time the members fled through blowing sand and darkness to the old CCC barracks in Cow Creek four miles away. In 1952 the Park Service tore down the building so the nature study school turned to U.S. Borax Corporation who owned an abandoned hostelry, the Death Valley View Hotel, in the old mining town of Ryan. The U. S. Borax Company allowed the nature school to use this facility.

Instructors appeared as eager as their students to experience the outdoors. There was something special about doing nature study in Death Valley. Once, an elderly lady who stopped to inquire about a trail group was told it was a "nature school." "Oh yes," she said understandingly, "a nudist colony."

At an evening session in 1954, Ranger-Naturalist L. Floyd Keller, a frequent visitor to the study school at Ryan, made the proposal that led to the creation of the Death Valley Natural History Association (DVNHA). He proposed a natural history support group for Death Valley like the one in Yosemite National Park. The students responded enthusiastically and raised their registration fee by 50 cents to help found the new association, and student contributions continued for five years.

The new association's by-laws provided that its board of directors include three academic members, two from San Jose State University and one from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. In 1987, the by-laws were changed to provide that all members of the board would be elected at large. Thus, any further formal relationship with Field Studies in Natural History, including the student contribution, was ended. But cross-pollenization continues, and San Jose State staff members (both past and present) continue to serve on the Board.

The Death Valley Natural History Association Organizes

By-laws were drafted in 1954. The purposes stated were: "pursuits assisting or advancing historical, scientific, educational or interpretive work of Death Valley National Monument."

The first board of directors had five members—four selected by the membership at its annual meeting in March, and the fifth member was the Park Naturalist (board members are listed on page 23).

The by-laws also called for a seven-member board of advisors to be selected at large from time to time by the membership at its annual meeting. The Articles of Incorporation were signed by the directors who at that time included Granville B. Liles, the current Superintendent; William C. Bullard, Chief of Interpretation; Roland H. Wauer, a Park Service employee; Alberta Murphy, George McCallum, Claude D. Ellison, and Wayne Kartchner. It is interesting to note that of the seven board members signing the articles, five either worked for the National Park Service or had Park Service connections.

The Rules Begin to Change

Until 1978, most cooperating associations were managed by the Park Service whose employees served as board members, officers, and executive secretaries, and acted as supervisors of the associations' paid employees. In Death Valley the business of the Death Valley Natural History Association (DVNHA) had grown sufficiently to hire a business manager. However the by-laws continued to state "the Business Manager and the Treasurer shall work under the direction of the Executive Secretary."

The steps to change the practice of Park Service management of the associations really began in 1958 when, at a directors' meeting of the Eastern National Parks and Monuments Association, they noted that cooperating associations were sprouting up everywhere. They exchanged ideas on common problems and passed a resolution requesting the Director of the National Park Service to call a meeting about cooperating associations.

In 1960, National Park Service (NPS) Director Conrad Wirth authorized such a meeting, and all attendees were NPS personnel with the agenda prepared by the Park Service. Meetings were held periodically, and in 1972, at a meeting of National Executive Secretaries Conference a resolution was passed to form "The National Council of Cooperating Associations." It was rejected at the next meeting, it provided the ground work for the future.

Meanwhile, the National Park Service established a position of service-wide Association Coordinator. By 1974 even though the proposal for the Council of Associations was rejected, James Murfin, the NPS association coordinator, established training programs and encouraged associations to become more professional. In 1976, an ad hoc committee was again formed to address the question of an Inter-Association Organization. The Conference of National Park Cooperating Associations was an outgrowth of that committee.

The practice of the National Park Service to administer their own cooperating nonprofit associations was coming under the increasing scrutiny of the Service's Regional Solicitor. After the Conference of National Park Cooperating Associations was chartered in California, the Regional Solicitor recommended distinct management of cooperating associations and that National Park Service remove its personnel from association management and board positions. At this time, the first Memorandum of Agreement between an association and the National Park Service was signed.

In December 1978 the first meeting of the newly formed Conference of National Park Cooperating Associations (CNPCA) was held in Denver. Most of the cooperating agreements with the now independent associations had been signed, but with mixed feelings by some NPS personnel who had for years managed their associations and supervised association paid staff. It proved difficult for some NPS managers to accept the increased independence of associations.

By 1980 NPS employees were no longer permitted to represent associations or to serve on their boards even in ex-officio capacities due to potential conflicts of interest. While these developments promoted independence and effectiveness, they also meant that greater effort by both the associations and the Park Service would be needed to ensure cooperation. Today, frequent communication, mutual respect, and collaborative goal-setting characterize the most successful partnerships.

History of DVNHA by Decades

The 1950s

The 1950s was a period of organizing the logistics needed to create an operation to serve the interests of Death Valley National Monument. By May 12, 1954, the Association's by-laws and constitution were in order, and they were forwarded to the National Park Service Regional Director in San Francisco for approval.

With the West Coast Nature School agreement to start the DVNHA and the school's efforts in bringing in 200 memberships, the Association began organizing the sale of publications to Monument visitors. By February 1955, a display case for publications was installed in the lobby of the Administration building at Cow Creek and the sale of publications began in earnest when it received a sales permit from the California State Board of Equalization in August 1956.

Death Valley Natural History Association, barely in existence for a year, began its own publishing program. The *Borax Story,* a six-page booklet, explained the history of borax in the Valley and guided visitors to the sites and relics of borax days. Visitors could purchase this booklet for a grand total of 15 cents. The booklet also displayed the beginning of the Association's logo: A crudely drawn bighorn sheep with the words "Death Valley Natural History" circling it. Today's logo has a more artistically drawn bighorn, but the design is the same.

Hot Weather Hints, a free brochure that through the years has provided millions of visitors with instructions on how to survive the Valley's extreme temperatures, was published in 1957 and placed at all entrances to the Monument. The third publication was the *Checklist of Birds of Death Valley* by Ro Wauer, the Park Naturalist.

In line with their stated purpose, the Association furnished materials for a large-scale, painted map installed in the administration building. It also began its tradition of purchasing publications for donation to the Monument's library. Among the first volumes purchased were *Desert Wildflowers* and *Our Desert Neighbors* by Edmund C. Jaeger, *Mammals of California and Coastal Waters* by Lloyd Glenn Ingles and *Campsite Finder, Vol. 1, West* by Dr. Richard Hartesveldt.

By 1957 DVNHA had progressed to a point where it could begin to give a substantial portion of its income to the Death Valley National Monument's interpretive program. One of the purchases that year was a portable amplifier.

During the 50s, the Association's business slowly increased its stock of books and shop furnishings to a value of just over $5800. As the decade ended, it looked forward to moving into the newly built visitor center at Furnace Creek. As the Association entered the 60s, business was still somewhat shaky. Of the $925.00 income in 1959, over half, $499, was donated to the Monument.

The 1960s

By July 1, 1960, the Association was organizing to form a non-profit corporation under the State of California General Nonprofit Corporation Law. The stated purpose was the pursuit of assisting or advancing historical, scientific, educational, or interpretive work of Death Valley National Monument. The organization's income was to come from the sale of publications to visitors to increase their knowledge and enjoyment of Death Valley. The application also stated that profits would be used to aid the interpretive program through the purchase of slide projectors, slides, motion pictures, books for the monument library (which was open to the public) and the production of booklets on Death Valley. It also noted that the Association had no paid employees and that the Chief Park Naturalist's time necessary to operate the Association was taken from his regular government work and that his salary came wholly from the National Park Service.

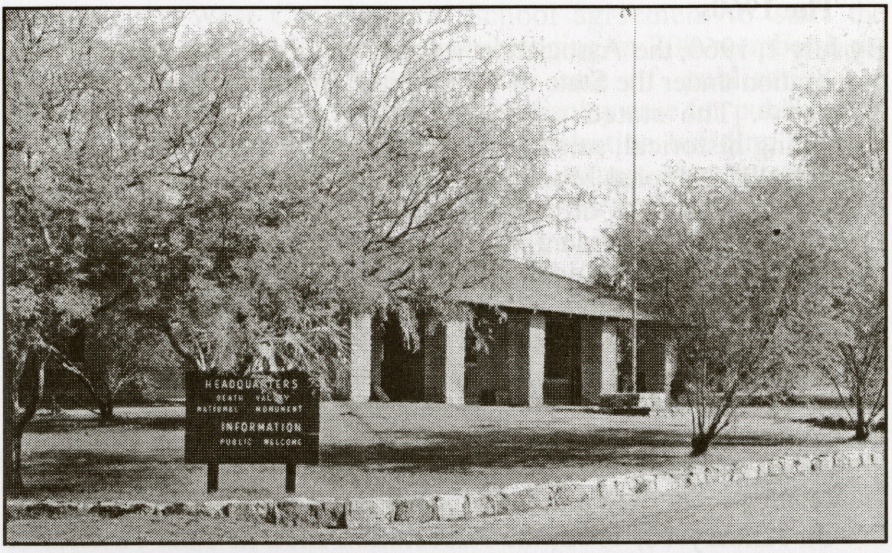
On January 16, 1962, the Association filed its final Articles of Incorporation. which are still in effect today.

The publication program continued with a fourth publication, *Death Valley National Monument, Story in Pictures*. Five hundred copies were sold in the first month and a half.

By 1965 the Association was accepting donations for the Monument's library and museum collections. Among those were Sandy Dengler's 15 paintings on the story of Death Valley Indians, *Stratigraphic Analysis of the Cambrian-Carrera Formation* a master thesis by Edmund Bates, and a variety of geological and archeological papers by Dr. John H. Maxson.

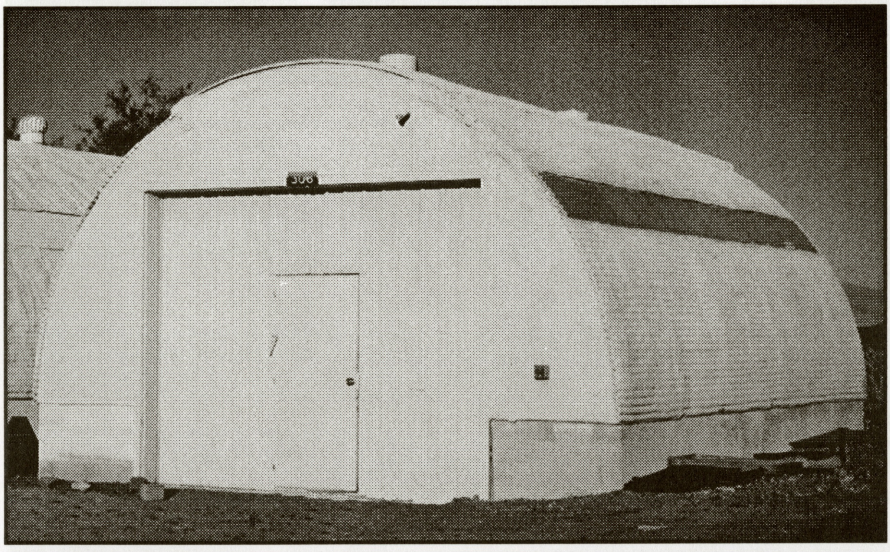
Increasingly, DVNHA found new ways to contribute to the Park's interpretive program. A monetary contribution was sent to the Regional Director to use in producing a NPS centennial motion picture. It celebrated the National Park Service's 50th anniversary by purchasing "2nd" day covers (stamp and envelope). Nancy Hildreth was hired to help with the Monument's slide and photograph collection, and Lyn Groves mounted slides and printed signs.

By 1966 the Association had started to fund the NPS research program, and it paid Patricia Rand's expenses to conduct a range study in the Wildrose District. It also purchased a Biram's Direct Reading Anemometer to aid in gathering wind data, particularly in the Ubehebe Crater and Racetrack area.



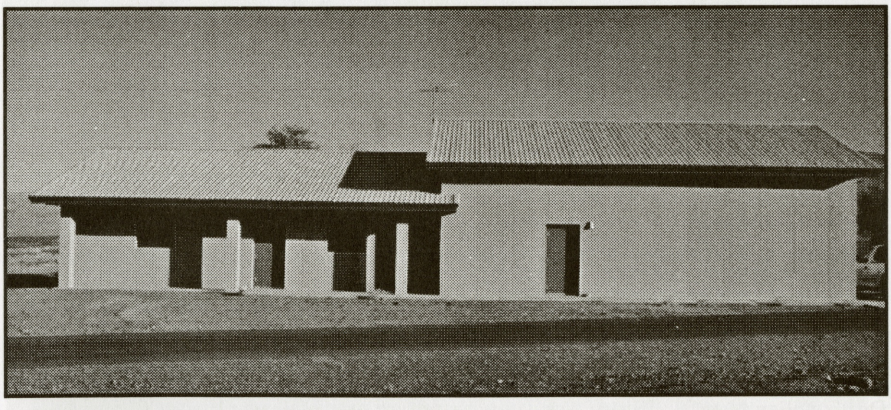
Park Service Headquarters building at Cow Creek where Death Valley Natural History Association (DVNHA) had its first book store starting in 1955. This site was used until the Furnace Creek Visitor Center was built in 1960. Courtesy Bob Greenburg, DVNHA

National Park Service Visitor Center at Furnace Creek where the Death Valley Natural History Association (DVNHA) has its main book store. Courtesy Bob Greenburg, DVNHA



Old Death Valley Natural History Association Quonset hut warehouse at Cow Creek.

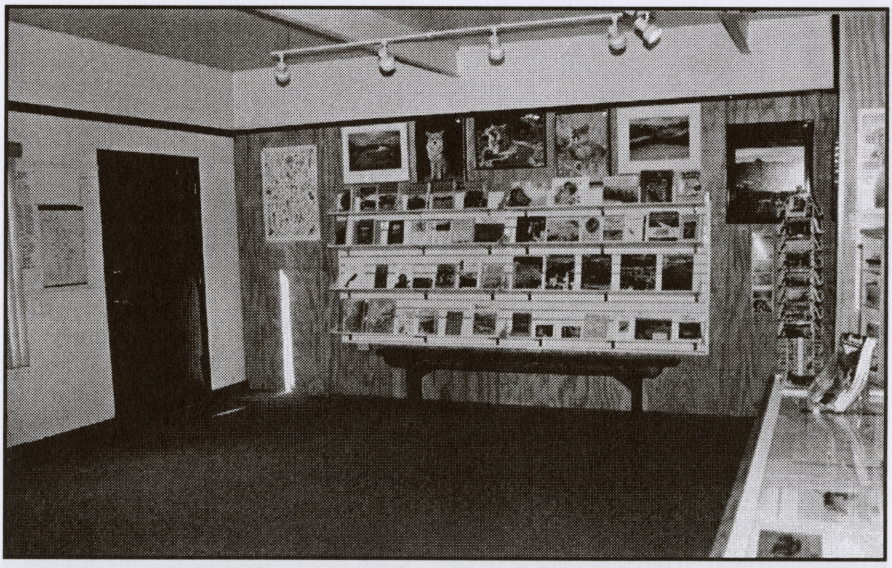
Courtesy NPS, DVNP, DEVA 38673



DVNHA moved into its new offices and warehouse facility at Cow Creek in June 2003.

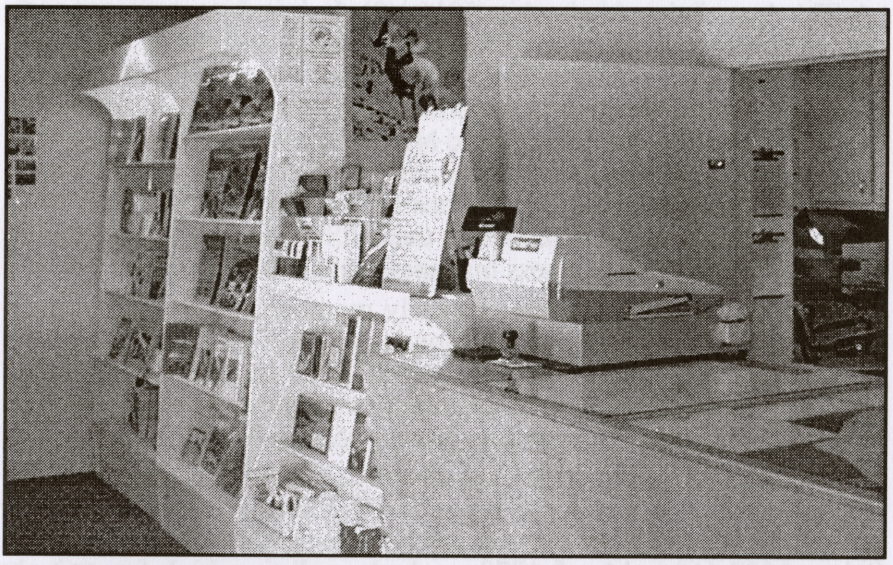
Courtesy DVNHA

Death Valley Natural History Association store inside Furnace Creek Visitor Center. The stores sell books, guides, brochures, and pamphlets as well as cards, pictures, videos, numerous interpretive items, shirts, and hats. Courtesy Bob Greenburg, DVNHA



Death Valley Natural History Association store inside the Beatty Visitor Center.

Courtesy Bob Greenburg, DVNHA



DVNHA has a small satellite book outlet at the Stovepipe Wells Ranger Station west of the sand dunes. Courtesy Bob Greenburg, DVNHA

Scotty's Castle DVNHA Book Store is housed in the old Gas Tank House. This also serves as the Castle Visitor Center. Courtesy Bob Greenburg, DVNHA

The 1970s

The Association received its 501(c)(3) designation as a non-profit organization from the Internal Revenue Service on March 21, 1972. By the early '70s, business had grown enough to employ a business manager and a clerical assistant. However, the NPS Executive Secretary (usually the Chief Park Naturalist) was still in place, and Association employees worked under his direct supervision. In an attempt to help associations become more professional, the NPS began offering training seminars at the NPS Grand Canyon Training Center, and DVNHA business managers attended.

The Association continued its early membership program, which was limited to employees of the Monument, staff and students of the field studys program, and teachers employed by the Death Valley Unified School District. In 1974 the membership was opened to the general public who responded by buying 45 memberships.

Travel and visitation to Death Valley continued to increase. Record numbers of families visited during Easter week, and increasing numbers of foreign visitors arrived during the summer months. Sales of $27,660 in March 1978 reached an all time high for a single month.

Up to 1979 Park Rangers were still selling books at the Visitor Center desk, but with the increase in visitors and increased book sales, the Association began hiring its own cashiers. An additional benefit to the NPS was that the cashiers could also disperse Death Valley information.

Publications in the '70s were diverse. In response to increased Monument visitation, DVNHA published *Dirt Road Travel and Back Country Camping* and the guides: *Golden Canyon, Salt Creek,* and *Windy Point Trail.* It also published *Death Valley Geology* by Wes Hildreth, and, in cooperation with the Los Angeles County Museum, *Native Fishes in the Death Valley System* by David Soltz and Robert Naiman in addition to museum texts in French and German and the first book catalog.

As the decade ended, aid to the NPS now included staffing the visitor center desk, providing a library aide, paying for part of an orientation film, buying books, publications, and periodicals for the library, publishing books and guides, and dispensing free informative publications. For instance, in 1979, 136,333 free publications were given out to the public. DVNHA also provided financial aid to the National Park Service's service-wide program.

By the end of the decade, a new agreement with the NPS made changes that said the Superintendent would no longer be the Chairman of the Board of Directors and the Superintendent and the Executive Secretary would be ex-officio members of the Board. It also meant that Association staff now worked under the direct supervision of the Board. The by-laws were revised to comply with the changes and to provide for two new board members to be elected from the local area. The title of Executive Secretary, held by the Chief of Interpretation (a name change from Chief Park Naturalist), was changed to Association Coordinator.

The 1980s

Business operations experienced growth with the creation of two new sales outlets; one at Stovepipe Wells in 1980 and a visitor center and bookstore at Scotty's Castle in 1981. Both were staffed with Association employees from mid-November through mid-May.

The Association now had permanent staff and employed cashiers for most of the year on a 7-day a week basis. For years DVNHA recruited staff from local residents, mostly spouses of Park Service or Fred Harvey workers because of the critical housing shortage at Furnace Creek. It purchase a 12 x 60-foot mobile home in 1983, the beginning of plans to provide its own staff housing.

For years the office was in a room that measured 25 x 25 feet. As Esy Fields recalls:

> The first day I came to work as Business Manager I walked into the office where metal shelving filled the center of the room and lined two of the walls. The room was not only the office but the warehouse as well. We had books stored every place possible—in closets, in any Monument cabinets available, in an old CCC building, anywhere there was a dry place. In order to reach my desk, my assistant had to stand up and push her chair out of the way for me to pass. If we received a book order of any size it was off-loaded in the passage way. We had to immediately check in the book order and try to find a place on the shelves or we couldn't get out of the room.
>
> In 1988, the Monument assigned us the old fire hall, a Quonset hut at Cow Creek, for a warehouse. We insulated the best we could with our limited funds. It was cold in the winter and hot in summer. There was a swamp cooler on the back wall which was turned on and we gathered book orders as fast as possible hoping the moisture wouldn't curl the books and posters.

By 1987, knowing that adequate office and warehouse space would be critical in the future, the Board of Directors started a building fund.

The '80s also brought an expansion of DVNHA's publication program with two popular books about the famous Walter Scott: Eleanor J. Houston's *Death Valley Scotty Told Me* and an original manuscript by Bessie Johnson's *Death Valley Scotty by Mabel.* The book by Mrs. Johnson contained personal observations and stories about Scotty and was written during the period the Castle was constructed.

With visitors' increasing interest in the environment, DVNHA published new check-lists on plants and birds. Death Valley National Monument's Golden Anniversary was marked by creating a commemorative poster.

An award for *Death Valley Guide and Summary* at a '70s publication competition for NPS Cooperating Associations encouraged DVNHA to hire professional authors, designers, and illustrators. *Death Valley National Monument, an Interpretive History* and *An Introduction to Death Valley Geology* were steps in this direction. The Association published the *Death Valley Gift Catalog,* which described specific items the public could donate to Death Valley National Monument.

The *Proceedings* of the first through fourth Death Valley Conferences on History and Prehistory were published by the Association, and the fifth and sixth *Proceedings* are sold at the Visitor Center. These conferences are a joint venture in cooperation with the National Park Service, Furnace Creek Inn and Ranch, and the Death Valley '49ers. The seventh Conference will be held February 3-7, 2005, with the Shoshone Museum as an added sponsor.

As sales receipts began to grow, the Association expanded its scope of aid. A backlog of work in the museum and study collection needed immediate attention, and the Association hired Shirley Harding to care for the collections in addition to the research library, the black and white print files, and the color slide files. This was the precursor to the Park hiring its first full-time curator three years later. Tha Association also brought two exhibits to the museum, a black and white photography exhibit and an insect exhibit.

In addition to the continued funding of library materials, an administrative aid, and of printing free visitor information, the long awaited orientation film for the Visitor Center at Furnace Creek was completed. DVNHA added three new ventures: funding oral histories

at Scotty's Castle, creating an alluvial fan wayside exhibit, and purchasing a color monitor and VHS recorder to assist training.

Other projects included the 8-foot by 16-foot relief map currently residing in the museum installed in 1986, the purchase of three Quasar telescopes for night sky programs at Furnace Creek, and Paul Schrivner's research on Copper Canyon. The Board of Directors began funding research up to $5,000 a year and established a research committee to work with the NPS on guidelines for grants.

Toward the end of the decade, the Association was once again expanding. The National Park Service wanted to establish a greater presence in gateway towns and asked DVNHA to open and operate an information center in Beatty, Nevada. With used fixtures in a small, leased building on Highway 95, the Association opened a visitor center and bookstore in 1989. On their own, the Association operated this site until September 1991 when the Monument leased the old post office building down the street for a combination ranger station and visitor center. The Association provided staff until the initiation of the government fee program in 1995 when NPS took over staffing the center.

The 1990s

The 1990s brought additional challenges for the Association. The passage of the Desert Protection Act in 1995 created Death Valley National Park and added almost 3.1 million acres to it. This increase meant expansion of park programs and visitation. The Act also created Mojave National Preserve. DVNHA signed a five year agreement on June 4, 1995, to serve as the Mojave's Association, and this action required the creation of three new bookstores: the Mojave Desert Information Center at Baker, Hole-in-the Wall Ranger Station (both in 1996), and the Mojave Desert Information Center at Needles (in 1997).

The additional stores required additional staff, and at this time the business operation was computerized. It had become increasingly apparent a new warehouse and office were needed. The building fund was put to use by building a staff house that was completed in 1995, and plans and drawings for a new office/warehouse building started a year later.

The Association celebrated its 40th anniversary on May 12, 1994, by presenting its one millionth dollar donation in aid to Death Valley National Monument. Aid and donations ran the gamut from producing an original theater production *(The Short Man...)* for the 60th anniversary of the Monument to providing the valley with

National Public Radio by installing a translator and antenna on Rogers Peak. When the Park celebrated with a dedication ceremony the passage of the Desert Protection Act and its expansion and designation as a National Park, DVNHA supported the dedication with printing projects, commemorative items, and Death Valley post-marked envelopes commemorating the special day.

The Association entered a period of revising publications and adding new ones to cover the Park's expanded area. This included a major revision of *Death Valley National Monument, A Pictorial History* with appropriate name change to *"National Park"* and with additional maps and text on the added acreage. New publications included *A Travelers Guide to Death Valley National Park,* to give park visitors additional information on the expanded area; *Burro Bill and Me;* and *Death Valley Discovery Activity Book*, a children's book. A series of guides: *The Borax Museum, Titus Canyon, Rhyolite,* the *Manzanar Site Bulletin,* and *The Colorado and Mojave Deserts Biosphere Reserve* were published during the decade. The *Proceedings* from the first and second Conferences proved so popular they were reprinted.

A set of geology slides and interpretive text were produced, and the blue prints of Scotty's Castle were duplicated as sales items. New additions to the free publications program were French and German translations of the Park Map and the Scotty's Castle Newspaper. As an outgrowth of the glorious flower year of 1998, the *Death Valley National Park Wildflower Brochure* was published in 1999.

Donations funded Volunteers in the Parks (VIP) and Park Watch programs, and sponsored the Western Regional Integrated Cultural and Natural Resources Management Workshop (a NPS Visitor Service project where Association employees helped hand out questionnaires). Funds were also donated for oral interviews, aerial photography of the Eureka Sand Dunes region, Mojave Community Involvement projects, and Junior Ranger programs. The Association funded fossil casting in Copper Canyon, a climate controlled display case for a Scotty's Castle exhibit, a new sign for the Stovepipe Wells Ranger Station, and a Native American museum exhibit.

The Association provided materials and helped school programs for Earth Day celebrations, continued publication of free Park information, provided administrative aid to the Superintendent, and continued library support and purchase of museum reference materials. The park also donated funds to Manzanar National Historic Site for a video and oral history interviews of people associated with

the Manzanar internment camp and provided $10,000 for wayside interpretive signs. Two field seminars were sponsored: Introduction to Death Valley Geology and Death Valley Wildflowers. DVNHA supported a special education outreach program for the local school and provided administrative support, start-up costs, and supplies for the Scotty's Castle special evening, living history interpretive program. Eight interpretive trail signs were purchased for the Salt Creek Nature Trail, and the Association contributed a Geographical Information System (GIS) computer and grant writing workshop for Park employees. It also supported the Desert Fish Conference and distributed 400 copies of *The Natural History of Native Fishes in Death Valley System* to participants.

By 1999, 200,000 copies per year of *Death Valley National Park Visitor Guide* and 100,000 copies of *Mojave National Preserve Park Visitor Guide* were produced and distributed free to park visitors.

The 2000s

While the events of September 11, 2001, brought a decrease in visitation, by 2003 both visitors and sales receipts had recovered. Declining government budgets made increasingly important the Association's mandate to support the Park's programs.

In conjunction with the Park's renovation of the Scotty's Castle exhibit room, the bookstore was completely remodeled with new fixtures and opened in 2000.

The contract with Mojave National Preserve ended September 30, 2003, so serving Death Valley became once again the Association's only focus.

It was no longer possible to operate an almost million dollar business out of a 25 x 25-foot room and small Quonset hut with a swamp cooler. After six years of planning, a new office/warehouse was constructed at Cow Creek, and staff moved in June 2003.

While it was necessary to reduce aid to the Park during the building program, the Association continued to provide visitor information and fund free publications, as well as to continue interpretive program development, to purchase materials to assist professionals in their endeavors, to donate books to the Research Library, and to provide a seasonal internship at Scotty's Castle.

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Including the projected 2004 aid of $86,460, the Death Valley Natural History Association's support of the Death Valley National Park (and Monument) has exceeded $2,076,648! Its goal now and in the future is to continue to find creative ways to fund education, interpretation, and research using its own resources and in partnership with others.

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For information on how to become a member of the Death Valley Natural History Association and help continue the Association's educational and interpretive assistance to Death Valley National Park call 800-478-8564.

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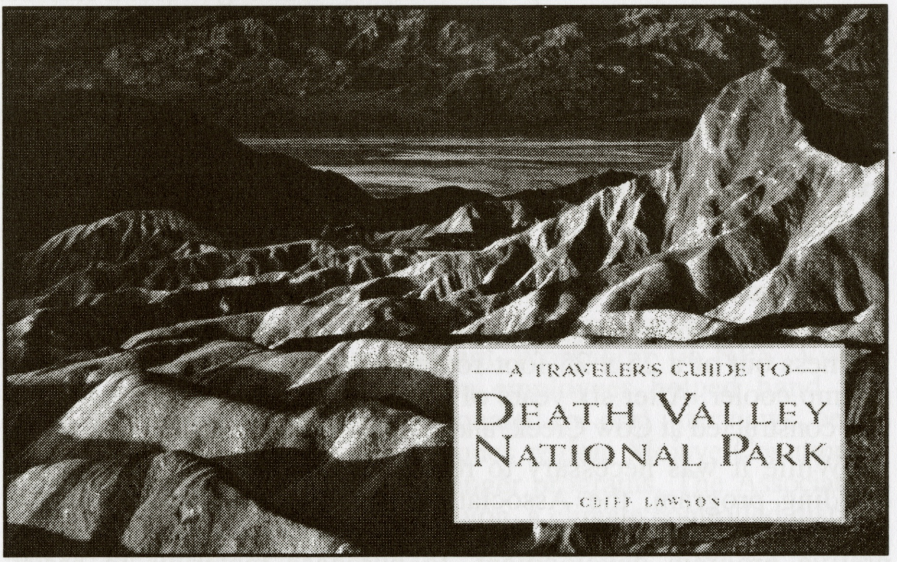

Cover of *A Traveler's Guide to Death Valley* by Cliff Lawson, the most recent book published by the Death Valley Natural History Association. View is west from Zabriskie Point area with Telescope Peak in the distant left, Manly Beacon on the right, the salt pan in the middle ground, and part of the Panamint Range beyond it.

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(in alphabetical order)

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* Author of the first geology book published on Death Valley and a Death Valley '49er Director.

Death Valley Natural History Association
Sales History and Aid To National Park Service

Sales	Aid	Sales	Aid
1961*– $13,542	1961*– $3,668	1983 – $211,131	1983 – 54,329
1962 – $16,684	1962 – 5,153	1984 – $191,895	1984 – 35,992
1963 – $18,229	1963 – 8,028	1985 – $198,963	1985 – 26,710
1964 – $18,069	1964 – 11,305	1986 – $265,613	1986 – 31,272
1965 – $19,169	1965 – 13,624	1987 – $353,581	1987 – 42,245
1966 – $31,761	1966 – 15,626	1988 – $404,869	1988 – 62,403
1967 – $22,747	1967 – 19,682	1989 – $415,693	1989 – 48,392
1968 – $26,763	1968 – 22,028	1990 – $493,848	1990 – 60,632
1969 – $31,430	1969 – 30,485	1991 – $572,198	1991 – 81,572
1970 – $30,141	1970 – 32,319	1992 – $638,597	1992 – 121,924
1971** $44,011	1971** 10,524	1993 – $700,171	1993 – 102,462
1972†–$47,163	1972†– 9,571	1994 – $660,858	1994 – 106,766
1973 – $71,272	1973 – 15,158	1995 – $854,306	1995 – 140,693
1974 – $54,566	1974 – 7,877	1996 – $806,456	1996 – 117,740
1975 – $65,378	1975 – 8,819	1997 – $894,761	1997 – 139,392
1976 – $87,791	1976 – 14,292	1998 – $959,973	1998 – 168,897
1977 – $101,668	1977 – 17,436	1999 – $840,598	1999 – 152,655
1978 – $135,378	1978 – 20,311	2000 – $787,790	2000 – 80,115
1979 – $141,072	1979 – 22,071	2001 – $734,564	2001 – 69,632
1980 – $170,671	1980 – 54,520	2002 – $659,521	2002 – 54,472
1981 – $181,495	1981 – 26,314	2003 – $791,131	2003 – 66,592
1982 – $181,917	1982 – 42,262	Projected Aid	2004 – 86,460

* Years ending Dec. 30 ** Ten-month year only

† Fiscal year (Oct.1 to Sept. 30) for remaining years

DEATH VALLEY '49ER PUBLICATIONS IN PRINT

50 Years in Death Valley, Memoirs of a Borax Man, Harry Gower
The Lost '49er Journal of Louis Nusbaumer, George Koenig
Proceedings: Sixth Death Valley Conference on History...
Proceedings: Fifth Death Valley Conference on History...
An Unnatural History of Death Valley, Paul Bailey
A Naturalist's Death Valley, Dr. Edmund Yeager
This Place Called Death Valley, in Japanese
This Place Called Death Valley, in German
This Place Called Death Valley, in English
This Place Called Death Valley, in French
Death Valley in 1849, John Southworth
Goodbye Death Valley! L. Burr Belden
Death Valley Tailings, George Koenig
Death Valley Tales, Eleven authors

Death Valley '49ers

Congratulate

Death Valley National Park

on its

10th Anniversary

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1994 – 2004

DEATH VALLEY '49ERS NON-PROFIT CORP.